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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6034th meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 December 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council, underlining that peace and security in the world are indivisible and taking into account the interconnection and interdependence of the world, reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It further reaffirms its determination to combat threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism by all possible means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council welcomes recent statements by intergovernmental organizations condemning all forms of terrorism, including suicide bombing and hostage taking, which build upon the universal condemnation by the international community of unlawful acts of terrorism, including against civilians, that cannot be justified or excused under any circumstances or pursuant to any political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other consideration and reaffirms the need for member states to work together urgently to prevent and suppress such acts.

"The Security Council emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in the global struggle against terrorism.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of all its resolutions and statements on terrorism, in particular resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and stresses the need for their full implementation.

"The Security Council renews its call on States to become parties as soon as possible to all relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and to implement those they are party to.

"The Security Council believes that terrorist safe havens continue to be a significant concern and reaffirms the need for States to strengthen cooperation in order to find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

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"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of the work of the committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and continues its support and guidance to the committees.

"The Security Council particularly expresses its support for, and commitment to contributing to the implementation of, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/60/288) of 8 September 2006 and welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/272 which reaffirmed this strategy and its four pillars and called for its implementation in an integrated manner and in all its aspects.

"The Security Council emphasizes that enhancing dialogue and broadening the understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, and addressing unresolved regional conflicts and the full range of global issues, including development issues, will contribute to international cooperation, which by itself is necessary to sustain the broadest possible fight against terrorism.

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the incitement of terrorist acts and repudiates attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts. It reaffirms the importance of countering radicalization and extremism that may lead to terrorism and preventing exploitation of young people by violent extremists.

"The Security Council, reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law is essential to an effective counter-terrorism strategy and that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of technical assistance aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States in the fight against terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs.

"The Security Council believes that the strengthening of mutual trust among Member States of the United Nations will facilitate the creation of conditions for a successful fight against terrorism, and that success in that fight will positively reinforce peace and security in the world.

"The Security Council, deeply concerned with the continuous terrorist attacks around the world, calls on all Members States of the United Nations to renew the degree of solidarity manifested immediately after the tragic event of 11 September 2001, and to redouble efforts to tackle global terrorism, dedicating significant attention to bringing to justice the perpetrators, facilitators and masterminds of terrorist acts while expressing deep compassion with all victims of terrorism.

"The Security Council will continue to follow developments in order to organize as efficiently as possible its efforts in combating terrorism."

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12 December 2008

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6039th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 December 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"In connection with the resolution just adopted on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, I have been authorized to make the following complementary statement on behalf of the Security Council:

'As is known, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (**S/2008/737**) states in paragraph 11 "... the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached". That statement of the Secretary-General reflects the view of the Security Council.'"

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Security Council

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19 December 2008

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6053rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 December 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991; International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States, between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, which established the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and its resolution 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 which established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) — the Tribunals — and further recalls that resolution 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003 called upon the Tribunals to take all possible measures to complete all trial activities at first instance by the end of 2008 and to complete all work in 2010 — the completion strategies — and that resolution 1534 (2004) of 26 March 2004 emphasized the importance of fully implementing the completion strategies.

"The Security Council recalls that the Tribunals were established in particular circumstances of the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as an ad hoc measure contributing to the restoration and maintenance of peace.

"The Security Council takes note of the presentations made on 12 December 2008 by the Presidents and Prosecutors of the Tribunals to the Security Council on the implementation of the completion strategies.

"Noting with concern that the deadline for completion of trial activities at first instance has not been met and that the Tribunals have indicated that their work is not likely to end in 2010, the Security Council emphasizes that trials must be conducted by the Tribunals as quickly and efficiently as possible and expresses its determination to support their efforts toward the completion of their work at the earliest date.

"The Security Council reaffirms the necessity of persons indicted by the ICTY and ICTR being brought to justice.

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"The Security Council calls on all States, especially States where fugitives are suspected to be at large, to further intensify cooperation with and render all necessary assistance to the ICTY and ICTR, as appropriate, in particular to achieve the arrest and surrender of all remaining fugitive indictees.

"The Council also reaffirms in this context that the referral of cases to competent national jurisdictions is an essential part of the completion strategies and in this regard underlines again the need for the Tribunals to concentrate their work on the prosecution and trial of the most senior leaders suspected of being most responsible for crimes within their jurisdiction, and urges the Tribunals to work with relevant national authorities to secure the transfer of cases which do not involve this level of responsibility for prosecution by competent national jurisdictions.

"The Security Council acknowledges the need to establish an ad hoc mechanism to carry out a number of essential functions of the Tribunals, including the trial of high-level fugitives, after the closure of the Tribunals. In view of the substantially reduced nature of these residual functions, this mechanism should be a small, temporary, and efficient structure. Its functions and size will diminish over time. Its expenses will be expenses of the Organization in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council emphasizes that any such mechanism will derive its authority from a Security Council resolution and from statutes and rules of procedure and evidence based on those existing for the ICTY and the ICTR, modified as appropriate, and that accommodations may be needed to address the differing needs and circumstances of the ICTY and the ICTR.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to its Informal Working Group on International Tribunals for its work to date on the establishment of this mechanism, including through a thorough examination of which functions of the Tribunals are necessary for the administration of justice after their closure. The Security Council requests the Informal Working Group on international tribunals to continue its efforts in that regard and to concentrate on the main outstanding issues with a view to drafting as soon as possible appropriate instruments necessary for the performance of residual functions of the Tribunals.

"In order to facilitate the further work of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to present a report within 90 days on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the options for possible locations for the Tribunals' archives and the seat of the residual mechanism, including the availability of suitable premises for the conduct of judicial proceedings by the residual mechanism, with particular emphasis on locations where the United Nations has an existing presence.

"The Security Council requests the Secretariat to provide the Informal Working Group with all necessary assistance, including interpretation in the six working languages of the Council."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6058th meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 December 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Great Lakes region", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is grateful for the efforts undertaken by His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique, as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-affected areas. The Council expresses its appreciation for his briefing of 17 December 2008, and agrees with his recommendation that the peace efforts should continue. The Council welcomes President Chissano's readiness to continue in his role for a further period.

"The Security Council reiterates its welcome for the Final Peace Agreement (FPA), negotiated between the Government of Uganda and the LRA, and reached through the Juba Peace Process. The Council commends the Government of Uganda for its continued commitment to the FPA and its investment in the peace process.

"The Security Council condemns the repeated failure of Joseph Kony to sign the FPA. It calls upon the LRA to sign and honour the FPA immediately and to begin the process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration to ensure a peaceful, political solution.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the recent attacks by the LRA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Southern Sudan, which pose a continuing threat to regional security. It demands that the LRA cease its recruitment and use of children and that it release immediately all women, children and other non-combatants, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). The Council reiterates its deep concern at the long-running and brutal insurgency by the LRA which has caused the death, abduction and displacement of thousands of innocent civilians in Uganda, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council recalls the International Criminal Court arrest warrants for certain LRA leaders on charges of, among other things, war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and the enlistment of children through abduction. The Council recalls its statement of June 2006 (PRST/2006/28), and reaffirms that it attaches vital importance to promoting

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justice and the rule of law, including respect for human rights, as an indispensable element for lasting peace. The Council reaffirms that ending impunity is essential for a society recovering from conflict to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians and to prevent their recurrence.

"The Security Council commends the States in the region for their increased cooperation, and welcomes the joint efforts they have made to address the security threat posed by the LRA. The Council calls upon these States to ensure that all actions are carried out in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and to take appropriate measures to protect civilians. The Council encourages these States to keep the United Nations missions in the region informed about their actions.

"The Security Council welcomes the re-establishment of peace and security in northern Uganda. It encourages the Government of Uganda, with the support of international partners, to honour its commitment to accelerate reconciliation, recovery and development in that region through rapid implementation of its Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) and relevant Agenda items in the FPA and to disburse anticipated financing for the PRDP without delay.

"The Security Council will continue to monitor the situation closely."